

1. A near object detection system comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of sensors, each of the sensors for providing detection coverage in a predetermined coverage zone and each of the sensors comprising:
 - 3 a transmit antenna for transmitting a first RF signal;
 - 4 a receive antenna for receiving a second RF signal; and
 - 5 a receiver circuit, coupled to said received antenna; and
 - 6 means for sharing information between each of the plurality of sensors.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said means for sharing information between each of the plurality of sensors comprises a central sensor processor coupled to each of said plurality of sensors.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said means for sharing information between each of the plurality of sensors comprises:
 - 1 a sensor processor disposed in each of said sensor circuits; and
 - 2 communication means for allowing information to be shared between the sensor
 - 3 processors.
4. A near object detection system for a vehicle, comprising:
 - 1 a plurality of sensors, each of the sensors for providing detection coverage in
 - 2 respective coverage zones disposed about a perimeter of the vehicle,
 - 3 wherein each of the sensors has a predetermined range, angular extent, and velocity
 - 4 range based upon respective coverage zone requirements.
5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the coverage zones include two or more of adaptive cruise control/night vision zone, lane keeping zone, road departure zone, side object detection zone, backup and parking aid zone, and stop and go zone.
6. A near object detection system, comprising:
 - 1 a plurality of sensors, each of the sensors for providing detection coverage in a

- 3 predetermined coverage zone;
- 4 a multiple hypothesis tracker for processing data from the plurality of sensors to make
- 5 a hypothesis about data association, resolution, and/or data quality;
- 6 a prediction filter coupled to the multiple hypothesis tracker for scheduling the
- 7 plurality of sensors;
- 8 a public track former including a discrimination processor for generating data to
- 9 control operation of the plurality of sensors;
- 10 an estimator/best state vector subsystem coupled to the public track former; and
- 11 a vehicle control crash management interface coupled to the estimator/best state
- 12 vector subsystem and to the discrimination processor.

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